

**BILLERICA HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION MINUTES**

**May 8, 2024**

A meeting of the Billerica Historic District Commission was held on Wednesday May 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in room 205 in the Town Hall. This meeting is recorded.

Present: Richard Hawes, Member; John McKenna, Member; Michael Rea, Member; George Simolaris, Member; Mary Jones, Alt Member; Kathy Meagher, Alt Member; Dan Valentine, Alt Member; Katherine Malgieri, Sr. Planner; and Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk

Excused: David Gagliardi, Chairman; Travis Brown, Vice Chairman; Mary McBride, Secretary; Matthew Ahern, Alt Member; and Tina Pesiridis, Alt Member

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Member Michael Rea called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Andrew Jennings of 29 Talbot Ave N. Billerica and serves as Billerica's representative on the Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board. Mr. Jennings gave a handout to the commission regarding the old N. Billerica train station. He is asking for suggestions and help on how he and the community can work together to save this structure. He has also asked the Select Board for help, he gave them copies of the same handout on April 22, 2024, and since that time the building has been boarded up.

There was some discussion regarding the station. It is in very poor condition. Mr. Jennings would like some help finding the original vote on the station. It was sometime between 1996 and 1998. He had emailed Kathy Meagher the Library Historian and sits on the Historic District Commission. She just got the email yesterday but had already started researching it and will be contacting him soon.

John McKenna, seconded by George Simolaris, moves to place the North Billerica Train Station on the next agenda.

It was voted:

7 – In favor  
0 – Opposed

**APPLICATIONS:**

**51 Concord Road – Shed Repair – App #2024-11 (m) – Doug Meagher**

Mr. Meagher came before the commission, he will be fixing the window, repairing the door, and replacing some of the fascia boards. Not doing anything structural. Jacking it up to level it. The roof is staying the same.

George Simolaris, seconded by Richard Hawes, moves to approve Application # 2024-11 (m) shed repairs.

It was voted:

6 – In favor  
0 – Opposed  
1 – Abstain -  
Meagher

**52 Concord Road – Paint and Windows – App #2024-10 (m) – Richard Proctor**

Mr. Proctor would like to paint the house, keeping it all white. Replace some windows and the gutters. There would be no changes to the outside of the house.

Acting Chairman Rea opened the floor to the committee for questions and concerns. Will the windows be the same? Yes, they are currently vinyl and will be replaced with vinyl. Is there any structural damage? No but we will be jacking up the deck to level it. Are you painting it all white? Are you going to paint a different color for the trim? The commission would like to see the trim a different color. The house was built in the late 1800's. The addition was built in 1989.

Dan Valentine, seconded by George Simolaris, moves to approve Application # 2024-10 (m).

It was voted:

7 – In favor  
0 – Opposed

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

George Simolaris, seconded by Mary Jones, made a motion to open the Public Hearing.

It was voted:

7 – In favor  
0 – Opposed

**34 Salem Road – Addition – App #2024-09 (M) – Charles Cooper**

Mr. Cooper has returned with additional information added to his presentation. He and his wife Clair are building a garage with room above, a new bathroom and a set of stairs as a second egress for the second floor. Currently, there is not a second exit. The windows will all match the original part of the house. Mr. Cooper went over the architectural plans, showing the original and new structure. They are going with the single garage door that goes along with the neighborhood.

Acting Chairman Rea opened the floor to the committee for questions and concerns. Any changes since you did your presentation at the April 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting? Nothing changed, just tightened up a couple of things. Will the garage door look historic and match the house historically? Once the addition is built and livable, they will live in the new portion and rehab the existing area. The existing bathroom is a small bump out area and the roof of it is rotting as shown in the PowerPoint. The commission would like to see a historical looking garage door.

George Simolaris, seconded by Richard Hawes, made a motion to close the Public Hearing.

It was voted:

7 – In favor  
0 – Opposed

Mary Jones, seconded by George Simolaris, moves to approve Application # 2024-09 as amended.

It was voted:

7 – In favor  
0 – Opposed

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Minutes: Approval of April 3, 2024, minutes**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT:**

George Simolaris, seconded by Richard Hawes, made a motion to adjourn.

It was voted:

7 – In favor  
0 – Opposed

Acting Chairman Michael Rea adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

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Joyce MacMillan, Recording Clerk